Paralyzed Veterans of America
Central Florida Chapter
2711 S. Design Ct.
Sanford, FL 32773-8120
Phone (407) 328-7041
Fax: (407) 328-7139

Website: pvacf.org
Email: office@pvacf.org

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Vice President ......................................... Sean Gibbs
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Craig Enenbach ................................... Class of 2020
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National Liaison Vice President: Robert Thomas

Appointees
Editor ......................................................... Steve Kirk
Membership/Vol Coordinator .... Brenda Ciccarello
Office Manager ................................. Joanne Poretti

Mission Statement
Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida, a congressionally chartered veteran’s service organization that provides a platform of advocacy, education and research, communication, adaptive sports and recreation for veterans paralyzed as a result of spinal cord injury or dysfunction, in an effort to afford them with the highest quality of healthcare and life experiences.

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PVACF.ORG 3
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R. A. Koestler-Grack reports that, on March 19, 1884, she was being watched by Chief Sitting Bull when: Oakley playfully skipped on stage, lifted her rifle, and aimed the barrel at a burning candle. In one shot, she snuffed out the flame with a whizzing bullet. Sitting Bull watched her knock corks off of bottles and slice through a cigar Butler held in his teeth.

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In late 1922, the couple were in a car accident that forced her to wear a steel brace on her right leg. She eventually performed again after more than a year of recovery, and she set records in 1924. Her health declined in 1925 and she died of pernicious anemia in Greenville, Ohio at the age of 66 on November 3, 1926. Her body was cremated in Cincinnati two days later and the ashes buried at Brock Cemetery, near Greenville. Butler was so grieved by her death, according to B. Haugen, that he stopped eating and died 18 days later in Michigan, and his body was buried next to Oakley’s ashes. One rumor claims that Oakley’s ashes were placed in one of her prized trophies and laid next to Butler’s body in his coffin prior to burial. Both body and ashes were interred in the cemetery on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1926.

After her death, her incomplete autobiography was given to stage comedian Fred Stone, and it was discovered that her entire fortune had been spent on her family and her charities. A vast collection of Oakley’s personal possessions, performance memorabilia, and firearms are on permanent exhibit in the Garst Museum and the National Annie Oakley Center in Greenville, Ohio. She has been inducted into the Trapshooting Hall of Fame, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas, the National Women’s Hall of Fame, the New Jersey Hall of Fame, and the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame, and the National Women’s Hall of Fame, the National Cowgirl Museum and Hall of Fame in Fort Worth, Texas, the National Women’s Hall of Fame, the Ohio Women’s Hall of Fame, and the New Jersey Hall of Fame.

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President of Oakley’s past. The investigator found nothing. Oakley spent much of the next six years winning all but one of her 55 libel lawsuits against newspapers. She collected less in judgments than the total of her legal expenses.

In 1912, the Butlers, Annie and her husband Frank, built a brick ranch-style house in Cambridge, Maryland. It is known as the Annie Oakley House and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996. In 1917, they moved to North Carolina and returned to public life. She continued to set records into her sixties, and also engaged in extensive philanthropy for women’s rights and other causes, including the support of young women she knew. She embarked on a comeback and intended to star in a feature-length silent movie. She hit 100 clay targets in a row from 16 yards (15 m) at age 62 in a 1922 shooting contest in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

You may, or may not be, familiar with Annie Oakley, but growing up in the west I was. So, indulge me while I let you read some things I didn’t know, such as Shirli Kasper, repeating Oakley’s own story about her very first shot at the age of eight. “I saw a squirrel run down over the grass in front of the house, through the orchard and stop on a fence to get a hickory nut.” Taking a rifle from the house, she fired at the squirrel, writing later that, “It was a wonderful shot, going right through the head from side to side”. Oakley never failed to delight her audiences, and her feats of marksmanship were truly incredible. At 30 paces she could split a playing card held edge-on, she hit dimes tossed into the air, she shot cigarettes from her husband’s lips, Frank Butler, and, a playing card being thrown into the air, she riddled it before it touched the ground.

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Well, the 39th National Veteran Wheelchair Games are over and we are half way through the summer. Nominations for officers and board membership are due and we are sending out ballots in the next few days for members to vote for the chapter leadership for the next few years. Preparation is being made for closing out the last quarter of the year. Wow! It seems like it was just yesterday we were saying “Happy New Year” to each other and we are already thinking about how we are going to finish out the year and prepare for a new decade.

And talk about time flying by, on July 1st, I celebrated my five year anniversary as your Chapter Executive Director. It seemed like it was just a few months ago that I sat talking to Brian Terwilliger and Steve Kirk about the position. It has been quite a busy five years. Let me take a moment to reflect on the past five years. Although I could not even begin to remember everything we have accomplished, let me try. In late 2014, we started to plan a golf tournament to help raise funds for the chapter and our first Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament was held on May 23, 2015. We raised $16,936.04 and have had a golf tournament each year since then, raising a total of $118,594.20. In September of 2014 we hired Joanne Poretti as our Office Manager (Joanne will celebrate her five year anniversary with us in a couple of months). In October of 2014, we purchased a 14’ box truck and started our REEP (Refurbished Equipment Exchange Program). Through this program, we receive donated medical durable equipment and after cleaning it up, we give it to people who need it in the community. In the past five years, we have received nearly $285,000 worth of equipment and have given away over $261,550 of it to date. In 2015, in partnership with the Lake Nona VA, we submitted a bid for hosting the 38th National Veteran Wheelchair Games. We were accepted and will celebrate her five year anniversary with us in a couple of months. In June of 2016, we conducted our first Jerry Dugan Memorial Charity Golf Tournament and brought home 15 medals. We have sent members and their caregivers to the National Veteran Wheelchair Games. Five members and three caregivers went to Salt Lake City, Utah to participate in the games and brought home sixteen gold, eleven silver and four bronze medals. In June of 2016 we conducted our first satellite meeting in Jacksonville and 8 members attended that meeting. In late 2016 we received a $6,000 grant to start a Veterans Air Gun Outreach Series. We have been conducting air gun competitions at the chapter and across the state ever since then. In January 2017 a group of our members played in the Wounded Warriors/NFL Alumni Flag Football Game during NFL Pro Bowl Week in Orlando. In April 2017 representatives from the Chapter Program Review Committee of the national office came down to Central Florida to conduct an audit of our chapter. In its report to the Executive Committee of PVA was the statement “the Central Florida Chapter operations were well organized and the committee would note that many of PVA’s other chapters could do well to emulate the efforts of this chapter.” We are proud of that statement because that is what we strive to be; the best possible chapter that is here for its members. In June of 2017, a group of our members participated in the Women’s Pro Bowlers Association pro-am in Orlando.

2018 brought the National Veteran Wheelchair Games to Central Florida and we were able to raise over $100,000 to pay for our chapter’s part of the games. Because we were able to raise so much, we were also able to offer those coming to the games an awesome experience beginning with an Athletes Reception where everyone was invited including caregivers and family members. We fed a plated meal to 1100 people. The games were a great success and it was the largest attended games in its 38-year history. We still have some memorabilia from the Orlando games, so if you are interested in getting a shirt or a sweatshirt, call the office and ask for Joanne. The games took a lot of time and energy but despite them, we continued to do what we have done every year for the last five years. We attended the spring and fall board meetings; we attended the Advocacy Training Seminar and spent time on Capitol Hill fighting for the causes that mean the most to our membership, we conducted business as usual in the office and conducted our best golf tournament this year netting over $25,000. In the past five years we have raised over $259,000 with fund raising, we received nearly $290,000 in cash donations and over $50,000 in grants. Our total income in the past five years was $2,084,178.24 and expenses were $1,810,467.84.

So where do we go from here? I have a vision to expand our programs to include not only sports but recreation as well, for both our members and their caregivers and family. We recently received a $20,000 grant from the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation to purchase hand cycles and some accessories to put together a had cycle program for those who would like to give it a go to see if it is something they might be interested in doing on a regular basis. I would like to see the chapter reach out to more of the women in our chapter and offer programming specifically directed toward them. I would like to see our chapter offer more opportunities for its member’s families and caregivers. I am hoping to involve more of our members in the operations of the chapter and get more input in how we can improve on what we are already doing. I look forward to the next five years and what they might bring our way. Give us a call at the office and let us know what you think and what you would like to see the chapter offer you. We want to hear from you! Until then, have a great finish to your summer and I look forward to seeing you soon.

John DeMauro
39th Annual Wheelchair Games
Are you a Veteran with a service or non-service connected Spinal Cord Injury?

Did you know that the Department of Veterans Affairs has updated its national policy to expand access to ReWalk exoskeletons through a VA SCI Hub and Spoke or the VA Choice Program?

What is ReWalk?
ReWalk is a robotic exoskeleton that enables individuals with Spinal Cord Injuries to stand and walk, and is cleared by the FDA for home and community use.

How Do I Know If I Am a Candidate for a ReWalk?

Contact ReWalk for a Free Screening
www.rewalk.com/contact or 508.251.1154 Option 2

Using ReWalk, I have more energy and less pain.”
Ret. Army Specialist Gene L.

Thanks for your support

A.T.A.P. COMPANIES

MARK 9:23 – “IF THOU CANST BELIEVE, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM WHO BELIEVETH”

A.T.A.P. Universe Learning Centers, Inc | A.T.A.P. Financial Services
Dr. Joyce “Jo” Hewell, CEO | R.E. “Buddy” Hewell, CFO

PREPARING
Prepare to
LIVE LONG and PROSPER
ACCUMULATE
APPRECIATING ASSETS
Save today to
SECURE your tomorrows

CARING
The mission of
A.T.A.P. COMPANIES
is to
“Help people to live life and to live it more abundantly”

SHARING
Help to prevent disease;
Cure the sick;
Comfort the afflicted;
Feed the hungry;
Clothe and shelter those in need

GOD, Grant me the serenity to accept the things I can not change.
Courage to change the things I can and the WISDOM to know the difference.

HAPPINESS is thinking of others first, yourself last and GOD always.
All a person is remembered for is what they did for others.

As mankind thinketh in their minds... so they are.

Adversity is Inevitable ***** Stress is OPTIONAL.

Anything that your mind can DREAM and you BELIEVE, you can ACHIEVE.
GOD created you to be SUCCESSFUL and HAPPY.

REGRET looks back, FEAR looks around... FAITH looks UP.

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It is that time of the year again! Time to nominate and elect officers and board members for the coming PVACF Year. We have two open board positions, Ken Weas will be rotating off the board. However, he can be nominated for re-election and can serve again, if elected. The board positions are for three years (2020-2022). Nominees must be certified members of the Paralyzed Veterans of America Central Florida Chapter. Nominations will be received in June and July by email, calling the office or at a board meeting. Only chapter members can make nominations. Ballots will be mailed in August and an ad hoc committee will count returned ballots in early September. Those newly elected will be inducted at the September board meeting and will take office October 1, 2019. Please note the requirements for nominations for board membership as per the Policies and Procedures of the PVA Central Florida Chapter: “Any voting member running for Chapter Office must be certified through the National PVA Secretary prior to being placed on the official ballot. The certification process includes proof of citizenship, proof of Active Duty Service in the Armed Forces and Character of Discharge other than Dishonorable (DD 214), and medical proof of Spinal Cord Injury or Disease. Documents are to be submitted to the CFPVA Secretary for review and examination before they are forwarded to the National PVA Secretary for member certification. Any prospective Board Member or Officer is required to attend six (6) meetings prior to submitting his/her name to run for a potential Board membership or officer position. A prospective Board Member/Officer may excuse themselves from two (2) meetings due to serious medical complications. These conditions will apply for each fiscal year. Those desiring office should have a working understanding of the Chapter’s Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, and the eight mandated programs required by National. The materials will be made available.” This year we need to elect the executive offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. These positions are for two-year terms. Nominations are being accepted now. If you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else, you may do so by sending an email to johnn@pvacf.org, calling the office or making the nomination at a board meeting. The next scheduled board meeting is July 25, 2019. Job descriptions for each of these positions can be found on the chapter website at www.pvacf.org. Go to About Us, then Policies and Procedures, then Governance and scroll down to each position.

Being there makes a difference

It could be a simple trip to the mall, a ride to the movies or just a visit to a friend’s home. The little things in life can make a big difference. It’s why MobilityWorks has been helping veterans connect with who and what matters most since 1997. Veterans have unique needs so we treat each of them as individuals. First of all, we listen. Then, we work together to find the best solution.

MobilityWorks has more than 50 locations across the country with the largest selection of accessible vehicles and adaptive solutions:
- Minivans, full-size vans and trucks
- The latest in adaptive technology
- Complete maintenance and service
- Rental vans — veterans receive a 10% discount

MobilityWorks is committed to serving you. Contact us today so we can evaluate your needs and find a solution that best fits your lifestyle.

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Clermont, FL 34715
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Jacksonville, FL 32246
904-383-3180

Orlando
7444 Narcoossee Road
Orlando, FL 32822
407-495-2255

Ocala
7265 Southwest 62nd Avenue Unit 1
Ocala, FL 34476
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GIFT YOUR OLD WHEELS FOR GOOD.

Your donated vehicle can go far in helping severely injured veterans. Donations are sold at auction with proceeds going toward programs and services for veterans and their families. You may also receive a tax break, too!
Did You Know?

China will soon become the number one ENGLISH speaking country in the WORLD.

1 in 5 divorces are blamed on Facebook because Facebook is divorce lawyers’ new best friend.

Did You Know?

Cats were worshiped in Ancient Egypt. The domesticated cat, known as Mau, was viewed as a symbol of grace and poise and was often mummified just like humans. Cats were so sacred that killing one, even accidentally, could be punishable by death.

Play-Doh was originally a wallpaper cleaner. Back when people burned coal to heat their homes, they got rid of soot by rolling the dough across their walls. The advent of vinyl wallpaper and new heating methods rendered the dough useless - so they changed the product name and started selling it as a toy.
All-In Construction is a locally owned and operated General Contractor that specializes in residential remodeling. We are focused on our veteran and disabled communities to help renovate their homes in a way that works best to suit their needs.

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Looking to buy a home, but everything in your price range is in need of some improvements or upgrades to make it just right? The VA Renovation Loan** is a solution you can use to both buy and improve your new home. Not only do you get the full benefits of a zero-down VA loan, but you can include up to $35,000 total renovation cost for improvements.

Having the right team for your renovation can make all the difference! Call today if you have any questions about using your VA benefit for a renovation loan.

*100% financing up to county loan limits available on purchase loans. Minimum FICO score requirements apply. **Minor remodeling that does not involve structural repairs is allowed. Any repair or improvement exceeding a work schedule longer than 3 months is not eligible. Other restrictions may apply.

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Florida Mortgage Lender Servicer License #MLD1222. Branch address: 500 Winderley Place, Suite 112, Maitland, Florida 32751. Branch NMLS #604792. This is not an offer for extension of credit or a commitment to lend. 06/2017 Rev 06.01.18 (0518-2448) LR 2018-373

Buy and Repair a Home with a Zero-Down* VA Loan!
Nine members of the Central Florida Chapter PVA competed in the 39th annual NVWG held in Louisville KY. Athletes competed in over 19 sports including Air Rifle, Archery, Boccia, Basketball, Field and Track events, Hand cycle, 9 ball, power slalom, power lifting, slalom, bowling, softball and table tennis. The team challenge was power lifting, shot put, air rifle, sled pull and rock climbing. The PVA CF had a strong showing to defend the championship title but the competition was stiff. The PVA CF chapter sent two novice athletes and two novice coaches. As a first time attendee at the games, I was personally moved and amazed at what the games offer to the participants. Adaptive Sports and Recreation for people of ALL abilities open doors to health, friendship, happiness and fullness of life. The games go far beyond Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. I witnessed personal records being made and broken. Along with the competition came tears and smiles, each athlete learning and growing. The best moments came when the athletes were teaching, coaching, supporting and cheering for one another. Congratulations to all our PVA CF members and their accomplishments and medals! Until next year, keep on training and see you in Portland, Oregon!
They say the best privilege is the one that allows us to be able to G.I.V.E. You can #give in support of our members and help improve the lives of paralyzed #veterans by donating your gently used clothes, appliances and household goods. Find out how: https://www.pva.org/ways-to-give/give/give-clothing

Contact us to learn how to take control of your health with the MyoCycle Home
www.myolyn.com | (352) 354-2749 | myolyn@myolyn.com

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